



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 21, 2016

CONTACT: [Robin K. Santangelo](#)
Public Information Officer, 301-600-2590

Executive Jan Gardner Announces Next Step in Ethics Reform & Reports on Legislative Accomplishments

FREDERICK, MD – County Executive Jan Gardner today announced the next step in ethics reform: the creation of an independent nominating committee for appointments to the Frederick County Ethics Commission. The goal is to create an independent Ethics Commission.

At Executive Gardner's request, the League of Women Voters will form a pilot Ethics Nominating Committee that will review candidates and make recommendations for appointment to the Ethics Commission -- two candidates for each pending vacancy on the commission. The five-member Nominations Committee will be chaired by Mary Ellen Rhoderick from the League and will include a current member of the Ethics Commission plus three additional members. Additional members will be selected from the following organizations: a Rotary Club in Frederick County; a faculty member or dean from either Hood College or Mount Saint Mary's University; a member of the Frederick County Bar Association; a local religious or faith leader, or the United Way. The committee will develop a rubric for scoring candidates and recommend rules and procedures for future nominating committees.

Executive Gardner commented, "I have worked since my first day in office to restore trust in county government and to ensure open and transparent government. I appreciate the League of Women Voters' willingness to work on this pilot program with the goal of making the Ethics Commission truly independent."

During her weekly public briefing, Executive Gardner also reported on a successful legislative session in Annapolis. Key successes include:

- Funding of the downtown hotel/conference center;
- Funding to the Center for Research & Education in Science and Technology (CREST), the first higher education center in Frederick;
- Passage of three of four of the County Executive's legislative initiatives, including
 - a small business tax credit,
 - a bill to allow county residents the same appeal rights as other state residents as related to Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreements, and
 - a bill that requires that the county attorney be notified when tort claims are filed against the county.

###